

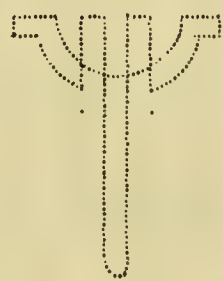
OTTERY ST. MARY  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

194<sup>7</sup>.



F. N. SIDEBOTHAM

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OTTERY ST. MARY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ottery  
St. Mary Urban District Council.

I beg to present to you a statement of the  
Public Health of your District for the year, 1947.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births	---	50.
Still Births	---	0.
Boys	20.	
Girls	30.	

The birth rate was the highest for many years.

There was no illegitimate birth.

Deaths.

In our own district - 46.

Transferable from other districts - 15.

Males 28.

Females 33.

Of these deaths:-

1	had	reached	the	age	of	90	years	&	upward.
17	"	"	"	"	"	80	"	"	"
37	"	"	"	"	"	70	"	"	"

There was one death of a child under one year.

There were 9 deaths from Cancer.

" " 3 " " Tuberculosis.

There were 2 accidental deaths and no case  
of suicide.

The average age of death was 66 years.

Hospital.

During the year 130 In-Patients were treated  
at the Hospital. 98 Operations were performed, and  
33 accidents were treated.

Maternity and Child Welfare.


The Infant Welfare Centre is open every week,  
except during holiday periods. During this year it was  
open 46 times.

On the Register there were 60 mothers.  
42 infants.  
23 toddlers.

The attendances were as follows:-

Mothers	-	646.
Infants	-	385.
Toddlers	-	341.

These figures show a marked increase over those  
of last year.



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## Prevalence and Treatment of Infectious Diseases.

In the early part of the year there was a considerable epidemic of Measles - but the epidemic was not of a virulent type.

One case of Polio-Myelitis occurred in the district. This patient was sent to the Whipton Isolation Hospital, and later to the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, and eventually made a good recovery.

I received the following notifications of Infectious Diseases during the year, viz:-

Measles	41.
Tuberculosis	4.
Polio-Myelitis	1.
Scarlet Fever	1.
Whooping Cough	1.
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1.

Of the Tuberculosis cases, 3 were Pulmonary, and one Surgical.

During the year 57 children were immunised against Diphtheria, and I reckon that 95% of the children of the District have been inoculated. During the year 43 children were given a reinforcing injection.

I have received no records of Venereal Disease. The nearest centre for treatment is at Exeter, and presumably, any cases that occur in this district go to Exeter direct for treatment, and do not come under my notice.

## Water Supply.

1. The supply to the town during 1947 has been satisfactory (1) as to quality, after chlorination, and (2) as to quantity - although on several occasions it was necessary to pump from the emergency well.  
The average daily flow during the year was 94,396 gallons. In the outlying districts the supplies are privately owned.



### Water Supply (Cont.).

2. Periodical bacteriological examinations were made of the piped supply to the town, and the results obtained from the chlorinated water were quite satisfactory. The unchlorinated water showed evidence of organic pollution.  
  
The chlorination plant is situated approximately 75 yards from the reservoirs, and the water is chlorinated at this point before entering the reservoirs.
3. No action has been taken during the year with regard to pollution at the source, but the Council are giving consideration to supporting the formation of an East Devon Water Board, which will give an alternative supply.
4. The supply in the built-up area of the District is piped direct to 670 premises with an approximate population of 2,020, this being 50% of the population according to the 1939 census.

### Sewerage.

The sewage from the Town area gravitates to a small works where it is dealt with by 2 settling tanks and 6 contact beds. The outlying rural areas are dealt with by cesspits.

No nuisances have occurred.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) F. N. SIDEBOTHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

